

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 ISO-00
TRSE-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 SP-02
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R 251515Z MAR 77 CORRECTED COPY FOR MRN
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3583

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FODAG

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 4954 VICE 3454)

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: FAO
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

REF: ROME A-084

1. MR. LEEKS, DIRECTOR OF FAO COMMODITY DIVISION, CALLED IN EMBASSY OFFICER TO DISCUSS HOW TO HANDLE THE STATEMENT OF THE GROUP OF 77, CFS DOCUMENT 77/5 OF JANUARY 1977, TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT ON MARCH 9 (REFAIR), IN THE UPCOMING SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CFS) MEETING IN ROME, APRIL 12-19.
2. AS THE DEPARTMENT WILL REMEMBER, THIS GROUP OF 77 STATEMENT HAS BEEN A DIVISIVE ISSUE IN A NUMBER OF FOOD FORA, WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, FAO COUNCIL, AND FIRST SESSION OF THE CFS. PREVIOUS MEETINGS HAVE DISAGREED EXCEPT TO PASS THE BUCK TO THE SECOND SESSION OF THE CFS. LEEKS IS SEEKING A QUICK WAY TO CONCLUDE THIS AGENDA ITEM 5 AND WONDERED IF THE USG

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COULD NOW ACCEPT THE GROUP OF 77 STATEMENT. AFTER MAKING CLEAR THAT HE WOULD SEEK INSTRUCTIONS, EMBASSY OFFICER STATED THAT HE DOUBTED IF AGREED TEXT COULD BE NEGOTIATED. FURTHER, IF IT COULD BE NEGOTIATED, IT WOULD WASTE A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME OF THE CFS AND THE RESULTS WOULD BE GENERAL AND NOT OF MUCH USE. IN EMBASSY OFFICER'S OPINION THE BEST RESULT WOULD BE

FOR GROUP OF 77 TO UPDATE THEIR STATEMENT AND THEN HAVE IT RECOGNIZED BY CFS AS STATEMENT OF GROUP OF 77, THAT IS DISTINCT FROM CFS, WHICH GOVERNMENTS SHOULD STUDY IN MAKING THEIR POLICIES IN THIS AREA. SUCH A FORMULATION WOULD NOT COMMIT USG TO ANYTHING FURTHER, BUT WOULD REMOVE A DIVISIVE AND NOW DATED ISSUE FROM CFS.

3. LEEKS RESPONDED FAVORABLE TO ABOVE APPROACH AND WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO LEADERS OF GROUP OF 77 ALONG THESE LINES. EMBASSY OFFICER PROMISED TO SEEK INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORM LEEKS ON CURRENT USG THINKING ON STATEMENT OF GROUP OF 77.

4. LEEKS ALSO WANTED TO KNOW IF USG COULD ACCEPT IDEA THAT THE MINIMUM SAFE LEVEL OF CARRYOVER OF CEREAL STOCKS IS 17-18 PERCENT AS RECOMMENDED IN CFS DOCUMENT NO. 77. LEEKS EMPHASIZED CARRYOVER CEREAL STOCKS ARE NOT RESERVES, WHICH LEEKS RECOGNIZES IS A PROBLEM FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE WHEAT COUNCIL, BUT ARE A LEVEL OF OVERALL STOCKS TO BE USED AS AN INDICATION OF THE SAFETY OF WORLD CEREAL SUPPLIES. LEEKS NOTED THAT CARRYOVER CEREAL STOCKS WILL REACH THIS LEVEL BY THE SUMMER OF 1977. AGAIN CURRENT USG THINKING ON THIS ISSUE WOULD BE APPRECIATED. GARDNER

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Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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